REMARKS:

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's comments in the Office Action and has prepared the following response.

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claims 2 and 10 have been amended.

Claims 2 - 10 remain pending in this application.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all base and intervening claims. By this paper, Applicant has rewritten claim 2 into independent form including any base and intervening claims. In addition, Applicant notes that claim 10 has been amended to depend directly from amended independent claim 2. Applicant also notes that claims 3 - 9 (in original form) depend either directly or indirectly from newly amended independent claim 2.

As a result, Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance.
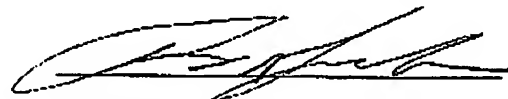
While Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims from this application, the cancellation of these claims is not to be construed as an acquiescence to the Examiner's position regarding the asserted references or the rejected claims. Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims merely to expedite issuance of the allowed claims, and hereby preserve the right to again pursue the rejected claims in a continuation application.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the prior art and the application is in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests an early notice of allowance. The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for any reason which would help advance the instant application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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